

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of December 4 - December 8, 2006**

1. **New Fleet Vehicles:** The Police Department received 13 of its 15 newly purchased Ford Crown Victoria Patrol Vehicle. Two of the vehicles are going to both K-9 teams. The remainder of the vehicles will be assigned to the Patrol Division as Personal Assigned Patrol Vehicles and fleet vehicles. The vehicles have a new distinctive color and agency logo design. *(Police)*
2. **Officers in Training:** On Friday, December 8, the Communications Division participated in its annual In Service training which was conducted in the department. *(Police)*
3. **Suspect in Town:** On December 5, 2006, Johann Yarborough was extradited from Washington, D.C. to Montgomery County, Maryland by detectives in connection with the November 29th Maple Avenue homicide. Det. Andrew John and Ms. Diana Dean continue to coordinate with Gregg Wimms of the Montgomery County Victims Rights Association to assist the family of the recent homicide victim. A trust fund is being established for the children and a toy drive is being planned. *(Police)*
4. **Traffic Enforcement (Wards 2, 3 and 4):** Officers conducted at least 70 traffic stops this week, 55 of which ended in written citations. More than half of the stops were made on New Hampshire and Flower Avenues, University Boulevard, and Piney Branch Road. *(Police)*
5. **Street Restoration (Ward 4):** The concrete work on Maple Ave is complete. Due to the cold weather, the milling and resurfacing will likely be scheduled until early spring. *(Public Works)*
6. **December 11 Public Hearing - Rent Stabilization (City-wide):** A public hearing to receive comments on proposed changes to the rent stabilization law will be held on Monday, December 11, starting at 7:30 pm in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium (7500 Maple Avenue). A copy of the report submitted by Dr. Kenneth Baar, who was retained by the City in October to review the law is available on line at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/items/2006/112006-3.pdf> Flyers announcing the public hearing have been distributed to tenants and landlords this week. An announcement was also published in the December edition of the Takoma Park Newsletter and posted on the City's website, notice board, and community calendar <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/pubhear.pdf>. *(Housing and Community Development)*
7. **Tenant Association Meetings (Ward 4):** The City's community organizers and landlord-tenant staff met with two tenant groups this week, The Parkview Towers Tenant Association, which represents tenants at 7667 Maple Avenue, and a newly formed association at 7513 Maple Avenue, The Edinburgh House Tenant Association. Any tenant wishing to form a tenant association in their building can call Linda Walker at 301.891.2222. *(Housing and Community Development)*
8. **"Stop for Santa in the Crosswalk" Pedestrian Safety Event - December 13 (Ward 6):** CSAFE is currently recruiting volunteers to assist in the distribution of bi-lingual pedestrian safety brochures in Takoma-Langley Crossroads on Wednesday,

December 13 for its "Stop for Santa in Crosswalk" effort (and yes, Santa will be there). If you are interested in participating please contact Gretchen Hilburger at 301-439-0972. *(Police Department - CSAFE)*

9. Open Studio Tour and Art Sale - Saturday, December 16 (City-wide): The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission's first annual Open Studio Tour and Holiday Art Sale will be held next Saturday, December 16 from noon until 5:00 pm. The event, sponsored in partnership with ASalon, will include over 20 individual artists studios and the work of 45 local artists. Additional information and a map noting the location of the various art studios can be found on the City's website at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/studiomap.pdf> Copies are also available at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. TONIGHT - Exhibit Reception and Special Performance (City-wide): Multi-talented Takoma Park artist, juggler, and jester, David Camero, will show his work at the Community Center during the month of December. The exhibit, Jester's Manuscripts: Decoding the Past of Juggler and Jester, can be viewed in the Atrium and Richard Dempsey Memorial Galleries at the Community Center. A reception and special performance by Camero will be held at 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Friday, December 8 at the gallery. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. Open Poetry Reading - Thursday, December 14 (City-wide): Local poets are encouraged to read their work this coming Thursday, December 14 during the monthly poetry reading sponsored by Poet Laureate Don Berger in partnership with the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission. The open reading will begin at 7:00 and will be held on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. Main Street Takoma Expands Marketing Efforts (Ward 1): The Old Town Business Association (OTBA) announced a new foray into marketing the historic commercial area of Takoma Park/Takoma DC with the installation of a backlit advertisement at the Gallery Place Metro stop. Aimed at the "Old Takoma Shopper" the ad directly targets metro users for the first time. *(Housing and Community Development)*

13. Enterprise Zone Marketing Fair a Success (Wards 2, 3, & 6): The Takoma Park/Prince George's County New Hampshire Avenue Enterprise Zone Fair drew a broad range of business and property owners that are interested in expanding or learning about incentives and challenges for redevelopment. Speakers included professionals that assist in securing loans, tax credits, grants, training, and also a property owner going through the development process. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project Phase I (Ward I): The public art portion of the streetscape has been completed with the application of a non-slip surface at all steps. Work to repair capstones that did not set properly will be completed in the spring. The electrical connection of the street lamps is still outstanding. *(Housing and Community Development)*

15. Market Expansion Proposal (Ward 6): City staff met with a Takoma Farmer's Market representative who has submitted a grant proposal to expand the market to the

Takoma Crossroads area. The proposal includes support for minority and low income farmers and vendors and to means of appealing to new customers. *(Housing and Community Development)*

16. Designing Urban Arterials for Walkability (City-wide): Economic and Community Development staff Ilona Blanchard and David Suls attended a Metropolitan Council of Governments training on the new Institute of Transportation Engineers guidance for making highways more walkable and bike/transit friendly through context sensitive design and new urbanist principles. *(Housing and Community Development)*

17. Pedestrian Safety Construction at the Takoma Crossroads (Ward 6): State Highway began construction on the MD 193/650 intersection Pedestrian Safety project this week. Improvements include ADA access ramps, moving sidewalk obstructions, adding sidewalk where missing, improving the park between Holton Lane and Kennewick Avenue, decreasing speeds that cars travel through slip lanes, adding a turning lane so cars pedestrians have more time to cross, and paving the roadway. The project is expected to last 230 days. For the majority of the work only one lane in each direction will be closed, except during milling and paving when two lanes will be closed (only at night). The planned transit station associated with these improvements has been delayed due to the property acquisition process and is expected to be initiated at a later date. *(Housing and Community Development)*